THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) As per the decision taken at the time of the announcement of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) on 1.4.2002, the Government subsidy on domestic LPG is to be phased out over a period of 5 years *i.e.* by 1.4.2007.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Complaints on allotment of petrol pumps

†2313. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petroleum companies against whom complaints of irregularity in allotment of petrol pumps were received by Government during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by Government on the complaints received and the number of officers found guilty therein;

(c) the policy regarding the allotment of petrol pump by the companies;

(d) whether in view of the complaints received, Government are contemplating to make the petrol pump allotment policy more transparent; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) (a) and (b) The Government receive complaints from time to time against selection of retail outlet dealers. Such complaints are inquired into through the oil marketing companies (OMCs)/Chief Vigilance Officers of OMCs and remedial action taken, wherever necessary. The details of complaints received during the last three years are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) Based on certain broad parameters advised by the Government to the public sector OMCs the latter have framed their guidelines for the selection of retail outlet dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships, and have been making selections in terms

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of these guidelines. These guidelines, which are obejctive and transparent in nature, provide for a detailed procedure to be followed by the OMCs in making selection of dealers/distributors. The procedure includes selection of dealers/distributors by the selection committee of the OMC concerned on the basis of evaluation of the suitablity of the candidates *vis-a-vis* certain laid down parameters and weightages. Further, the guidelines provide for grievance redressal mechanism and any complaint/grievance related to the selection of dealers/ distributors is dealth with by the OMCs as per this mechanism. At present, no change in policy in the matter of allotment of retail outlets, is contemplated.

Risk involved in Indo-Iran Pipeline Project

2314. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed his apprehension about the risk in the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipe line; and

(b) if so, what are those risk involved and how the Government proposes to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) (a) Relevant extracts from Prime Minister's reply in the Lok Sabha on 3rd August, 2005 in respect of this matter during the discussion on "Statement made by the Prime Minister regarding his recent official visit to the United States of America" may be seen at Statement-I (*See* below)

(b) Taking into account the various political and security-related issues pertaining to the pipeline, India's over-riding objective is to achieve a "safe and secure world class project", as stated in the Joint Press Statement issued in Islamabad on 7.6.2005 by the Petroleum Ministers of India and Pakistan, and in the agreed minutes of the meeting of India - Iran Joint Working Group on hydrocarbon sector cooperation held in